TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2004 LB 1065

Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, SENATOR BEUTLER: I've tried my best in a personal sense to be consistent on fees and on charges to different segments in industry as we've come through various years and gone through different areas of our economic life. And I've always been of the opinion that the best business practice is to as closely as possible government assess fees and charges to whoever it is that's benefitting from the government service or whatever it is that's being done. So I'm sorry when I try to apply this principle to something that's considered rural in nature and it tends to devolve down into an urban-rural thing. I think you're going to find me consistent on fees against urban interests in those occasions such as storm water sewer, for example, when the fee is being charged against urban constituents. That's just my philosophy of the matter which I still strongly adhere to. But having said that, the bigger question, in this instance, is simply that of some fiscal responsibility. The thing that we need to do is make these packages whole in any way that we can. We try to do it with fuel taxes. I support fuel taxes for this purpose. I have supported General Funds in the past for this purpose, if that's what we needed to do to get the job done. I've been a supporter of ethanol up and down the line for 20 years, any way we can do it, but we need to be fiscally responsible. Senator Baker, you and I have talked about this amendment and the relative importance of it. If this amendment fails, I'm not going to try to hold up the bill. filibustering this bill. I'm not about to do that and I assume, Senator Baker, you're not either. Let me ask you, are you going to kill the bill if this amendment gets attached?

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, certainly not. This bill has to move forward in some shape. We just...that's not an alternative to kill the bill. No.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you, Senator Baker. I think we're all of the same opinion that the bill needs to move forward. And whatever the will of the body is as best we can ascertain it, if this fails, it moves forward; if this is adopted, it